

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Danube-Black Sea Canal

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1. The Danube Black Sea canal was started in late 1948 or early 1949. It was to extend from Cerna Voda /1420N-2802E/ to Midia /1421N-2841E/ and was to be finished in 10 years.. Two sluice gates were planned; one at Cerna Voda, the other at Midia. Midia was to replace Constanta as the main Rumanian Black Sea port, with a harbor twice as large as that of Constanta. [redacted] that the canal will not be finished in twenty years, because only two excavators were being used; the rest of the work being done by hand. I heard that sand often caves in on the workers.

2. The canal project headquarters were located in Bucharest, and were known to me as the Danube Commission. The countries which will use the canal, the USSR, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Austria, contributed funds for the project. The technical and administrative headquarters were in Constanta on Ovidiu Square [redacted] Constanta. All participating countries were represented at headquarters.

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3. Free workers, and members of the "Construction Army" (politically unreliable draftees not admitted to the regular Rumanian Army) were used as laborers on the project, in addition to political prisoners. [redacted] many available prostitutes in Bucharest (seven truckloads full) were sent to the project to work as clerks and cooks. [redacted] the total number of workers was between eight and 10 thousand. The free workers and "Construction Army" lived in barracks in the area. The prisoners lived in camps guarded by frontier troops. Mortality among the prisoners was said to be excessive.

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4. [redacted] This was a political prisoners sector about five km from Cerna Voda and about 50 m from the tracks. The prisoners were working energetically with shovels, wheelbarrows and trucks, under the supervision of civilians, on a section about two or three hundred meters in length.

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5. Engineers on the canal project earned between 30 and 40 thousand lei; "Normatori", who tested earth, earned from 12 to 16 thousand lei; truck drivers, diggers, and wheelbarrow pushers received between 10 and 14 thousand lei per month.

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6. The project had its own Danube navigational facilities, which [REDACTED] consisted of four tugs and eight barges. I also heard this project will have its own radio transmitting facilities. [REDACTED] operators were being sought, at salaries ranging from 16 to 25 thousand lei. However, none of the proposed radio stations at Bucharest, Constanta, Midia, Poarta Alba or Cerna Voda had been established [REDACTED]

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